

Message Text

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13

ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01

INR-05 INT-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-02 SP-02 SS-20 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 DRC-01 /093 W
----- 113823

R 130855Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1618
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL BARCELONA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1120

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: LIBYAN NATURAL GAS PROBLEM

REF: STATE 224546, ROME 13839, TRIPOLI 1108 (NOTAL)

1. FROM OUR LIMITED VANTAGE POINT MULTIPLE STALEMATE OVER PRICING OF LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS FROM ESSO'S LARGE PLANT IN LIBYA IS CONFUSED SITUATION. INVOLVED ARE ITALIAN AND SPANISH BUYER-CONSUMERS, EXXON AS RETAILER, ESSO LIBYA AS PROCESSOR, LIBYAN GOVT AS PRODUCER COUNTRY AND ITALIAN, SPANISH AND U.S. GOVTS AS HIGHLY INTERESTED PARTIES. WE HAVE IM-PRESSION FROM TALKS WITH ESSOLIBYA AND SPANISH AMBASSADOR THAT ALL PARTIES BEING PRESSURED ARE EITHER NOT COORDINATING WELL OR ARE NOT BEING COMPLETELY CANDID WITH EACHOTHER. ALSO, WHILE LIBYAN GOVT SEEMS TO BE IN DRIVER'S SEAT, IT DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE CLEAR IDEA HOW IT WILL REACH ITS OBJECTIVE.

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WE UNDERSTANDWELL QUALIFIED UNDER SECRETARY OF PETROLEUM

MINISTRY MUNTASSIR HAS RETURNED FROM U.S. VISIT, AND HIS PRESENCE MIGHT HELP REDUCE CONFUSION.

2. SPANISH, AND UNDOUBTEDLY ITALIANS WHO GENERALLY AVOID CONFIDING IN US HERE, KNEW MONTH AGO OF LIBYAN INTENTION TO TRIPLE PRICE OF LNG. BOTH HAD NEGOTIATING TEAMS IN TRIPOLI LAST MONTH WORKING ON LIBYAN DEMAND. ACCORDING TO SPANISH COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, ITALIANS WERE COUNTERING WITH PACKAGE OFFERS TO OFFSET PRICE RISE. SPANISH NEGOTIATOR DEPARTED OCT. 2 WITH UNDERSTANDING HIS TALKS WOULD BE RESUMED WHEN HE RETURNED THREE WEEKS LATER, BUT LEARNED FROM EXXON DAY OR TWO AFTER THAT LIBYANS HAD ALREADY IMPOSED TRIPLING OF PRICE. STEIN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: shawdg
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Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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